

**SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN HIV/AIDS COUNCIL
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
DETROIT HEALTH DEPARTMENT ROOM 420-B**

**May 21, 2003
12:00 P.M. –2:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Long Range Planning committee of The Southeastern Michigan HIV/AIDS Council was called to order at 12:11 PM by Co-Chair, Keith Meeks, in room 420B of the Detroit Health Department on Wednesday May 21, 2003. Sybil Lyons-Davis, the other Co-Chair was not present. Today's agenda and the minutes of the April 23 meeting were read and approved.

Present

Keith Meeks, Co-Chair
Waymond Burkes
Yolanda Jones
Patricia McGruder
Joy Schumacher
Laeki Harris
Kathy Kustowski
Tracy Winston

SEMHAC Staff

Guests

James Gregory Jenkins
Greg Cherry
Tonya Gooden
Armand Hansberry

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HOPWA

Brenda Shelton, the Housing and Program Specialist for HOPWA (Housing for People with Aids) described their recent process for starting a waiting list for PLWHAs who need housing. 237 applications out of 600 distributed were returned. Women of Color were targeted because of the mandate by HRSA that the number of women and children served be increased by 29%. 30 males who were on the waiting list were brought into the program, too. Per Brenda, it is very difficult to facilitate people in the process of completing and returning the paperwork. HOPWA is a low-income program for people with incomes of \$8200 or less. There are other programs available for higher income people. This is the first time that the program has been open to new enrollees in 3 years. Homelessness is a huge issue for HIV+ individuals. 30% of calls that are received by Brenda are from families in which a recently incarcerated individual is being released, and that person needs housing. Brenda is distributing materials to prison populations that will provide them with information about resources available if they are HIV+. She stated that education of Parole Officers is also very important so that they are aware of resources for their clients.

NEW BUSINESS

The discussion of difficulties for men recently released from prisons was continued, with Armand who is an Outreach Worker for the Health Department, sharing the experiences he has had with individuals who have not been tested since they were released from prison, and therefore do not know their status. Many of them do not have a place to live, and do not realize that there may be resources available to them. They are exchanging sex for drugs and sleeping on park benches. Transitional housing exists for women with children, but not much is available for men. Armand stated that Elder McCloud is a person who has been very active in offering help. His phone number was shared with the group as a resource. Keith gave an update on the "Championing Process". It was brought up that a Parliamentarian needs to be appointed for the group, and further discussion will take place at the next meeting. Keith would like to have the group split up into small work groups of 4-5 people so that more may be accomplished. The June 18 meeting will be from noon to 4pm. The group will be composed of all Chairs and Co-Chairs in addition to this

committee. The purpose will be to review each of SEMHAC's Committee's Goals, and to determine whether or not committees are on target for meeting their goals.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is a special four-hour meeting from Noon-4 PM on Wednesday June 18, 2003. Regular meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, from Noon-2 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Minutes transcribed by Karla Handley_____ Date_____

Chair Signature_____ Date_____